

Ideas from Senator Craven from Pittsburgh meeting

Second Chance felt was important for kin families. 1. Financial support, 2. Clinical services – meaning education for the kin provider on what the child has been through and what behaviors may look like so the family is prepared and knows what to expect rather than becoming frustrated, 3. Legal services, 4. Understanding the dynamics of the child and the separation from family, 5. Support networks

- Contact the Law school and see if we could contract (free) with students learning Family Law, to offer legal support to Kinship families. I agree this would be a good plan, perhaps place law school interns at Maine Kids-Kin or at Probate courts 2 days a month to address kinship issues.
- Outreach to many more organizations to offer awareness, resources, and other support for families. I agree with this as well. Developing some PSA pieces for TV and radio would be good.
- Integrate services to make them more assessable
- Empower Bio parents to take responsibility for their actions!
- Offer Bio families more support as soon as the family unit is in trouble to see if we can keep the family in tact. It would be great if we could increase our Parents as Partners program so families would have support from someone who successfully negotiated the system and is a peer.
- Can we strengthen or create a direct reporting method from early childhood visiting programs to red flag families who might benefit from early intervention from the department or the contracted CAP agencies to keep families together. I would like to work more closely with the Home Visiting Programs and other early intervention programs like Head Start. I liked your idea of seeing if CAP agencies can do more to support kinship families as they are often located in the communities.
- One other critical piece is transportation. It would be great if it would be possible to partner with a company like Irving or Shell?

I like the suitcase program, and items for kids in transition, do we have anything like that? There are two programs, one a private individual distributes suitcases and LL Bean provides backpacks.

